Irregularities at Fair Price Shops in Delhi

686. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fair price shopkeepers in Delhi are not distributing the quota of rice and sugar to the consumers covered under public distribution system;

(b) whether it is also fact that the consumers are getting substandard quality of food grains as the shopkeepers sell the quality items in black market at profitable rate; and

(c) if so, what steps have taken to streamline the supply of items under Public Distribution Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The scale of entitlement of foodgrains is 25 kg.s per adult per month and 12.5 kgs. in the case of a child, Levy sugar is given @ 800 gms. per month per person irrespective of being an adult or a child, in the UT of Delhi. The quantum of foodgrains and sugar allotted to the UT is distributed by it to all the Fair Price Shops, pro-rata on the basis of card holders attached to the shops. Persons living in jhuggi-jhopri clusters and resettlement colonies are given a minimum of 8 kg. of wheat per adult per month. Foodgrains of standard specifications as laid down by the Government of India are issued by the Food Corporation of India and made available to the UT of Delhi for distribution to the consumers, these foodgrains are transported by the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation and delivered at the door steps of the fair price shops. Officers of the Delhi Administration undertake checks and surprise visits to curb unfair trade practices and prevent diversion of PDS commodities into the open market. Receipt of bad quality of foodgrains are required to be reported within 72 hours to the Circle Offices for redressal, and replacement where necessary.

Cases in Consumer Council Forum

687. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases filed against the Government of India in consumer council forum upto December, 1992; and

(b) what is the number of awards that were given against the Central Government in consumer forum indicating the largest sum involved therein in recent times?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Faulty weights and measures in public distribution shops

688. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleases to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is difference in weights and measures of quantity delivered in public distribution;

(b) whether a surprise check is proposed to be conducted to put down the corrupt practice and cheating prevaling in public distribution shops in the country; and

(c) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to check cheating in weights and measures in public distribution systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF